



**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
New Zealand Branch Incorporated**

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

REPORTS

PRESIDENT

2017 has been a busy year but I have managed to travel from one end of the country to the other visiting some of our more isolated clubs. I have enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new along the way.

Starting in Auckland in April in some truly atrocious weather I visited Braemar and Royal Oak Clubs but the garden party on the Saturday was a wonderful gathering of dancers old and new.

One of my greatest pleasures this year was having the opportunity to teach the senior JAMs at the JAM camp in Masterton.

In May I travelled to a part of the country I have not visited before – Invercargill, where I joined members of the St Andrews Club in celebrating their 60th Anniversary. While my visit was short I was driven to Bluff in weather that would have been ideal for a visit to Stewart Island.

Hoon Hay Club in Christchurch celebrated their 35th Anniversary in June and I joined them for the Ball on the Saturday and lunch on the Sunday. The visit to Auckland in July included joining Highland Park members for their Tea Dance, dancing with Kerikeri Club for their club night then on to Kaitaia to dance with their members, both young and older. The Management Committee held their mid-year meeting on the Saturday and then all joined the Auckland Region dancers for their 60th Anniversary Ball.

In the midst of all this travelling I have also been busy organising summer school and working with the members of the Management Committee.

Elaine Laidlaw – President

TREASURER

The year has seen the accumulated funds down \$18,215 represented by

- a decrease in the funds held in the Regions of \$17,482
- a profit of core Branch activities of \$9,085
- a reduction in the Special Funds of \$10,683 mostly within the Schools Fund.

Income continues to decline with more members electing email options and lower interest paid on investments.

The table below provides a breakdown of the membership for 2017 compared to the prior year.

MEMBERSHIP #	2015/16	2016/17
Adult Joint	64	52
Adult Joint Email	127	147
Adult Single	198	175
Adult Single Email	282	317
NZ Branch Life	7	7
RSCDS Life	10	7
RSCDS Life Email	4	4
RSCDS Life Family	4	4
Young Adult Email (18-24)	5	6
Grand Total	701	719

Management Committee have recommended the combined Society and Branch fee remain largely unchanged for the 2018/19 subscript period; with only minor changes for Society Life Members and Young Adults.

Overall expenses were down in 2017. This was largely due to the “Dance Scottish” promotion that was run in 2016 not being repeated in 2017. Note that the Branch has budgeted for a similar promotion for 2018 albeit at the beginning of the dancing year.

At the 2016 AGM (held on 1 January 2017) members increased the level of expenses reimbursed to Management Committee position holders with regards travel and accommodation while attending meetings at Summer School. This is reflected in the higher Management Committee expenses in the 2017 financial year. It should be noted that three position holders did not claim expenses and expenses were significantly reduced for a fourth position holder who only attended the AGM.

Due to the cash accounting methodology the cost of the 2017 audit will be reflected in the 2018 financial statements. The audit for 2016 financial year was conducted on an honorary basis with no fee being charged.

The large reduction in the School Funds resulted from the loss recorded from the 2016/17 Summer School in Christchurch, \$5015, and a grant made to the 2017/18 Masterton Summer School to cover travel expenses for international musicians, \$8,000; offsetting this was the interest income received on the accumulated School funds.

In my 2016 Report I recommended the NZ Branch update the Constitution to allow an independent review of the financial statements, rather than requiring an annual audit. A Remit on the matter is included for member consideration this year.

RSCDS Subscription Accounts

The RSCDS NZ Branch runs a subscription account on behalf the RSCDS “the Society”. This account collections moneys from NZ Branch members to cover their annual subscription to the Society. These funds have accumulated over time as the amounts collected (in NZ dollars) have exceeded the amount payable to the Society (in UK pound). While these funds are not part of the NZ Branch

assets they are Member funds. A summary of the transactions through this account is presented.

Movement in RSCDS Subs Account

Movement in RSCDS Subs Account	\$
Opening Balance 1 Sep 2016	12,360
Total Subscriptions Received	24,960
Interest	485
Remittanc to HQ	(23,869)
Bank Fees	(45)
Closing Balance 31 August 2017	13,891

Cheque	1,329
Savings	12,562
Total	<u>13,891</u>

The currency movement between setting the Society fee in March 2016 and remitting the funds to the Society in December 2016 resulted in a reduction in the fee paid of some \$5,700. This resulted in an increase in the RSCDS Subscription account of \$1,531 instead of the reduction that was expected.

Margaret Cantwell - Treasurer

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY

2017 has been a relatively quiet year for me. I have put items on the website as requested and answered questions as they have been raised. My other focus this year has been Dance Scottish 2018 where all clubs were invited to join this Branch initiative. I am looking forward to hearing if the clubs participating have gained new members because we need these for the clubs, regions and branch to survive.

I would like to say a huge thank our Editor, Isobel Jackson for all her hard work that she has put in collating the yearly Dancer magazine and the quarterly Kiwi News over the last three years. Isobel is stepping down from this position so the 2018 Dancer magazine will be her final publication.

Sue Lindsay - Communication and Publicity Co-Ordinator

MEMBERSHIP

The year has gone really well, I received more emails to advise of changes of home addresses, emails, and change of phone numbers.

The busy time has come around again, and I have started to update our membership in both the New Zealand and RSCDS data bases.

If you have a Vodafone email address and you had not changed this before completing your renewal form, please email me your new email address.

This is my last year as membership co-ordinator and I would like to thank you all for your support.

Linda Glavin - Membership Co-ordinator

YOUTH

The JAM Committee started this year with a new membership person. Chris Totton will be known to many of you as the Totton family has been dancing for many years. Chris is currently in the middle of sorting out the membership renewals for the first time so if there are any hiccoughs I would ask you to please be patient and understanding. This is my final year as Youth Co-ordinator and it has been another successful year. Next year there will be a new Youth Co-ordinator and also a new medal test organiser as Hazel Fish is due to step down after 3 years organising medal tests. I would like to say thank you to Hazel for a job well done over the past 3 years. Nicole Trewavas will be taking over from Hazel so again please be patient as she learns the ropes.

My main project this year has been the 'Working with Young People Guidelines', which were approved at the Management Committee mid-year meeting in July. The guidelines are now available on the JAM home page of the RSCDS New Zealand Branch

<http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/youth.php>

All groups are welcome to use the guidelines. Many people made contributions to the development of the guidelines and this project would not have been successful without the assistance of so many, many thanks.

I have continued to work on the website this year and as part of this requested the development of the new JAM directory by our webmaster, Duncan Laidlaw. This is now available on the website and is much easier to keep up to date. If you have a JAM group or JAMs dancing at your club and you are not yet on the JAM directory, please let me know and you can be added. Any changes to information can now be updated more quickly, just let me know.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with many people over the past 3 years and would like to thank you all for your assistance and friendship, which I hope will continue well into the future.

Thanks also to the other members of Management Committee that I have had the opportunity to work with, I wish you all the best for future endeavours.

Diane Bradshaw – Youth Co-Ordinator

BOOKSHOP

The sale of books has been steady throughout the year. Whilst the number of books sold and the value of sales was down on last year, in part due to fewer new books released in this period, and the fact that the majority of sales of Book 50 had been recorded in the previous financial year. The sales may also have been impacted by the shop being closed for two months.

The Bookshop attended Summer School in Christchurch and Queen's Birthday weekend school at Rotorua. Some stock of recent books was provided for the Easter weekend school in Otago.

Sue Pearson - Bookshop Keeper

RECORD SHOP

It has been quite a year! After last year's disappointing result, it is really pleasing to record a noticeable jump in sales figures and to finish this financial year on a high note.

This was due mainly to six new CD releases:- "Music for Book 50" and "M.M.M.Part 5" from the RSCDS, "Sunday Class 2" and "Belfast Platinum" from Marian Anderson, "Spark o'Water" from the Nova Scotia Branch, " Full Circle" from Muriel Johnstone, plus the continuing popularity of Andy Imbrie's (Reel of 7) Auckland SS souvenir CD "The Magic of Summer School". Something to suit every taste and all proved to be very popular.

The results are to be seen in the Recordshop End of Year Financial Statement and I propose to transfer the sum of \$3,000 from the Recordshop account to the main Branch account where it can be invested and earn a good rate of interest.

The 2016/17 Summer School at Ilam (Christchurch) was my only opportunity for personal sales this year, but figures were the lowest on record. Most of the afore-mentioned CD releases were either well before or well after the summer period which meant I was kept very busy writing out invoices, packaging and despatching CDs via the mail order system (I am well-known to the local Post Office staff as every CD package is checked in personally over their counter).

I was disappointed that, for the first time ever, I was unable to attend any of the three Weekend Schools, though I did send a selection of CDs to the Cromwell (Otago) 2017 Easter Weekend School.

Despite this recent CD bonanza, I would like to draw attention to the fact that, year by year, sales of the latest RSCDS CD release are gradually reducing in number. In the past this annual production by HQ has always attracted highest sales figures, and still does, but orders are decreasing. Obviously the facility of downloading from the Internet appeals to some and is one reason for the decline in sales through the Recordshop. But, could another reason be that many teachers/dancers are feeling swamped with the continuing proliferation of new books of dances and their matching CDs? It is interesting to note that HQ have decided to 'take a break' after the planned 2018 release of "Book 52"..... and to see what effect this will have on the Recordshop's trading figures.

Many thanks to Secretary Liz who has given me fantastic service when it comes to the wide distribution of the Branch Recordshop Newsletter (and occasional News Flash) – I have really appreciated your prompt response to my requests for this service, Liz - and to Sue Lindsay, who has kept the Website uptodate, posting the latest issue as well as the Recordshop Catalogue. My thanks to Bruce Dwerryhouse, who agreed to continue auditing the Recordshop books. However, what does make this busy, voluntary job so enjoyable and worthwhile – and I do spend a great many hours at my desk and at the keyboard on Recordshop matters – are the emails from members with , snippets of news, expressions of appreciation, sometimes a word of advice or piece of information, the wee notes or comments enclosed with cheques. Thankyou to all of you for these messages but, above all, a big Thankyou to the members who continue to give loyal support to the NZ Branch Recordshop service.

Dorothy W. Wilson – Record Shop Keeper